Examples of How to Use a Monkfish DAS to Fund Research

A. Research and compensation conducted on same trip

- Vessels conducting research retain all or a portion of the monkfish harvested during the research project and use the revenues from the sale of the monkfish retained to pay for the research (including vessel costs).
- Use current trip limits in each area to derive estimated revenue per trip.
  - Vessels may conduct research then fish regular gear to get the amount of monkfish needed for compensation on the same trip, so long as the trip limit is not exceeded. This may be particularly useful for gear or tagging studies where the numbers of monkfish collected may not be sufficient to cover the cost of the trip. Be clear in proposal that this is the intent.
  - In general, it can be difficult to justify and allow trip limit waivers. Doing so requires the issuance of an EFP, and will likely require additional restrictions (i.e., a hard TAC) to be placed on the project.
- For example, if a Principle Investigator (PI) determines that $100,000 is needed to fund a monkfish research project, the PI should:
  - Determine the trip limit applicable to the participating vessel(s) based upon limited access monkfish permit category and management area to be fished during the study. For example, in the Northern Fishery Management Area, a monkfish limited access Category C vessel is allowed to land 1,250 lb of tail weight or 4,150 lb whole weight.
  - Determine in what form (tails versus whole) the monkfish will be landed. If the vessel intends to land the monkfish whole, the researcher would use the price per lb of whole weight to estimate the value of a trip. In this example, the vessel would be landing the monkfish whole at an estimate ex-vessel price of $1.50 per lb.
  - Determine length of trips. If the trips will be less than 24 hours in duration, the vessel is only allowed one trip limit. However, if the trips are over 24 hours in duration (but less than 48 hours) the vessel is allowed two trip limits (and so on). In this example, the vessel would be fishing for less than 24 hours.
  - Determine amount of revenues needed for vessel compensation versus research funding. In this example, the PI and vessel have agreed that 30 percent would go to the research and 70 percent would go to the vessel.
  - Determine how many trips are needed to pay for the project by dividing the estimated revenues from each trip ($1,867.50) going toward research costs by the cost of the research In this example, 54 trips (rounded up to the next whole trip) would be needed.
  - Determine how the vessel will use the DAS clock. If the vessel is a gillnet vessel that is only using 15 hours per trip, the number of DAS actually needed is only 34 DAS (rounded up to the next whole DAS). However, if the trips will be closer to 24 hours in duration, the PI should plan the DAS requirements accordingly.

Project Costs (excluding vessel compensation) = $100,000*

Value of a one day trip for a Category C vessel in the NFMA = $6,225

Agreed upon percentage of revenues to go to research = 30 % = $1,867.50 per trip

Agreed upon percentage of revenues to go to vessel = 70 % = 4,357.50 per trip

Number of trips needed to cover project costs = 54 (100,000/1,867.50)

Number of Monkfish RSA DAS needed if 15 hour gillnet day = 34 DAS**

Total revenues to research = $100,845* ($1,867.50 x 54 trips)

Total revenues to vessel = $235,305 ($4,357.50 x 54 trips)

Cost compensation ratio = 2.33, which is within the maximum of 2.5

*Total revenues going to research and total project costs must match up exactly, so may need to tweak project costs or revenues slightly to get them to be equivalent.
** Would be 54 DAS if vessel fishes closer to a 24 hour DAS.

Please note: Vessels fishing under research DAS in the NFMA must also use a NE Multispecies DAS or fish in an exempted fishery. The only exempted fishery in the Gulf of Maine is the Exempted Monkfish Gillnet Fishery, which is in effect from July 1 - September 14 annually.

B. Research and compensation conducted on separate trips

- The research is conducted on chartered vessels (paid a fixed charter rate) and either no fish is retained for sale, or a only a small amount is likely to be retained.
  - Charter rates considered part of research costs, not vessel compensation with respect to 2.5 times cost compensation ratio.
  - Policy is to not allow trip limit waivers for strictly compensation trips.
- In this case, the PI would need to estimate how many research DAS would be needed to cover the research activities. In some cases, no research DAS may be needed if the activity can be classified as "scientific research" under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Please refer to handout titled "Guidance on Applying for Exempted Fishing Permits, Letters of Acknowledgment, and Scientific Research Permits" for more information.
- To pay for the cost of the research, the PI would then need to contract vessels to conduct what is called "compensation fishing."
  - In this case, the vessel would fish under a research DAS solely for the purpose of generating funds to pay for the research, including money to compensate the vessel.
  - Vessel compensation could be a percentage of the revenues from the sale of the monkfish or a flat rate per DAS or trip.
- If a PI determines that $100,000 is needed to fund a monkfish research project, the PI should:
  - Determine the trip limit applicable to the participating vessel(s) based upon limited access monkfish permit category and management area to be fished during

the study. For example, in the Southern Fishery Management Area, a monkfish limited access Category D vessel is allowed to land 450 lb of tail weight or 1,494 lb whole weight.

- Determine in what form the monkfish will be landed. In this example, the vessel would be landing the monkfish whole at an ex-vessel price of $1.50 per lb.
- Determine length of trips. In this example, the vessel would be fishing for over just over 24 hours (1.1 DAS) to land two trip limits.
- Determine amount of revenues needed for vessel compensation versus research funding. In this example, the PI and vessel have agreed to a flat rate of $2,500 per trip. The remaining $1,982 ($4,482-$2,500) would go to pay for the cost of the research.
- Determine how many trips are needed to pay for the project. In this example, 51 trips (rounded up to the next whole trip) would be needed.
- Determine how the vessel will use the DAS clock. In this case, the vessel would be using 1.1 DAS per trip in order to land two trip limits.

Project Costs (excluding vessel compensation) = $100,000*

Value per trip at 1.1 DAS (two trip limits) for a Category D vessel fishing in the SFMA = $4,482

Agreed upon flat rate per trip to vessel for compensation fishing = $2,500

Remaining revenues per trip going towards research costs = $1,982

Number of trips needed to cover project costs = 51 (100,000/1,982)

Number of Monkfish RSA DAS needed if 1.1 DAS used per trip = 57 DAS (rounded up to next full DAS)

Total revenues to research = $101,082* ($1,982 x 51 trips)

Total revenues to vessel = $127,500 ($2,500 x 51 trips)

Cost compensation ratio = 1.26, which is within the maximum requirement of 2.5